

2000P22369WOUS
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Appl. No.: 10/613,016

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

The present invention relates to a method wherein communication links between subscriber access lines of subscriber access units of an exchange in a switching system comprising a number of exchanges are established within the exchange concerned either directly in the respective subscriber access unit or between the subscriber access units connected by means of trunk lines directly to one another or via at least one subscriber access unit, without involving a central switching device of the exchange concerned, and under the control of the central controller belonging to this exchange.